

May 20, 1975

is capable of anything.

SENATOR DICKINSON: Then I'm supposed to take by your implication that he may strike, he may line-item veto the proposal in Senator Kelly's amendment and we would be helpless to override that. Will you answer my question, Senator.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: I'm going to answer it but last session and Senator Luedtke can bear this out, listen Senator Luedtke, the Governor asked for a provision to be attached to a bill to correct a problem that had arose because he had vetoed an earlier measure. I agreed to allow that provision that the Governor wanted, it was the Governor's amendment, to be attached to my bill. The Governor knew this. Do you know what the Governor did with the amendment that he wanted? He vetoed the bill, and you can check that from Senator Luedtke. He did veto a bill carrying his amendment, Senator Kelly, I personally think he's capable of doing anything.

SENATOR DICKINSON: Thank you Senator Chambers. I wanted to be sure that I understood your implication. I agree with Senator Keyes and that doesn't happen every day either. I think if we cannot have faith in the Governor's statement now, we never can have and I'm not willing to stand on this floor today and to say to our Governor, "you're a liar." That's in fact what we would be doing if we don't at least accept, whether or not we override or whether we accept the statement conveyed through Senator Kelly by virtue of this amendment. I have inquired a little bit about the average age of the inmates of our reformatory, and the best information I can get is that it's about 20 or 21 years old. Now, we're talking about building a facility that I personally don't know what the need is. I haven't studied it like our Judiciary Committee has. Statistics show that the....but the point is that rather youthful members of our society are the people that are in this institution. In Nebraska, we have 30,000 sixteen year old youths. In Nebraska, we have 16,000 one year old youths. Now, there are two things. If we are going to do a better job of rehabilitation, we should have a better job of not having criminals in the first place, we should have a less need for a many bed complex. As time goes on, we have less youth in this state and obviously if the same rate of crime, the same rate of conviction, we're not going to have a need for these facilities ten or fifteen years down the road. I don't believe we can afford to build them if we're not going to need them. And so to the point where it costs more for two facilities, for management, staffing, the whole thing, heating, air conditioning, what have you, has got to be for more than one. And John, don't look so blank at me, you can't deny that statement. I will not support the override and I think we should go for the amendment that has been offered.

PRESIDENT: Senator DeCamp.

SENATOR DECAMP: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, just like to highlight for you a few incidents in the history